

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1           1.       (Currently Amended) A method for forming leads, comprising:  
2           forming a liftoff mask having a desired width;  
3           forming leads contiguous to and on opposite sides of the liftoff mask;  
4           removing the liftoff mask, the removal of the liftoff mask leaving fencing on the  
5           leads;  
6           forming a layer of carbon over the leads after removal of the mask; and  
7           performing chemical mechanical polishing on the leads at the fencing to  
8           preferentially remove a portion of the leads including the fencing and a portion of the  
9           carbon layer.

1           2.       (Original)     The method of claim 1 wherein the desired width of the  
2           liftoff mask is a trackwidth for a magnetoresistive sensor.

1           3.       (Original)     The method of claim 1 wherein the forming a liftoff mask  
2           having a desired width further comprises forming a single layer liftoff mask.

1           4.       (Original)     The method of claim 1, further comprising removing any  
2           remaining carbon using an oxygen plasma.

1           5.       (Original)     The method of claim 1 wherein the forming leads on  
2       opposite sides of the liftoff mask further comprises depositing leads using a sputtering  
3       process.

1           6.       (Currently Amended) A method for forming a magnetic read sensor,  
2       comprising:  
3               forming a magnetoresistive sensor element; and  
4               forming leads to the magnetoresistive sensor element, the forming the leads to the  
5       magnetoresistive sensor element further comprising:  
6               forming a liftoff mask having a desired width over the magnetoresistive  
7       sensor element;  
8               forming leads contiguous to and on opposite sides of the liftoff mask and  
9       in contact with the magnetoresistive sensor element;  
10              removing the liftoff mask, the removal of the liftoff mask leaving fencing  
11       on the leads;  
12              forming a layer of carbon over the leads after removal of the mask; and  
13              performing chemical mechanical polishing on the leads at the fencing to  
14       preferentially remove a portion of the leads including the fencing and a portion of the  
15       carbon layer.

1           7.       (Original)     The method of claim 6 wherein the desired width of the  
2       liftoff mask is a trackwidth for the magnetoresistive read sensor.

1           8.       (Original)     The method of claim 6 wherein the forming a liftoff mask  
2     having a desired width further comprises forming a single layer liftoff mask.

1           9.       (Original)     The method of claim 6, further comprising removing any  
2     remaining carbon using an oxygen plasma.

1           10.      (Original)     The method of claim 6 wherein the forming leads on  
2     opposite sides of the liftoff mask further comprises depositing leads using a sputtering  
3     process.

1           11.      (Original)     The method of claim 6 wherein the forming the  
2     magnetoresistive sensor element further comprises forming an anisotropic  
3     magnetoresistive (AMR) sensor element.

1           12.      (Original)     The method of claim 6 wherein the forming the  
2     magnetoresistive sensor element further comprises forming a giant magnetoresistive  
3     (GMR) sensor element.

1           13.   (Withdrawn) A magnetic read sensor, comprising:  
2           a magnetoresistive sensor element; and  
3           leads, coupled to the magnetoresistive sensor element, the leads to the  
4   magnetoresistive sensor element created by forming a liftoff mask having a desired width  
5   over the magnetoresistive sensor element, forming leads contiguous to and on opposite  
6   sides of the liftoff mask and in contact with the magnetoresistive sensor element,  
7   removing the liftoff mask, the removal of the liftoff mask leaving fencing on the leads,  
8   forming a layer of carbon over the leads and performing chemical mechanical polishing  
9   on the leads at the fencing to preferentially remove the fencing.